



# News Release

## UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

### **437th AIRLIFT WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE**

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### **CAFB TO RECEIVE NEWEST VERSION OF C-17 THURSDAY**

**CHARLESTON AIR FORCE BASE, S.C.** – Charleston AFB is scheduled to receive it's newest C-17, the first since April 1999, Thursday, 5 p.m., with a brief ceremony at the Nosedock.

This newest aircraft, production model P-75, is a Block 12 version of the aircraft, with new, state-of-the-art technology, according to Maj. Paul Dorcey, a pilot with the 14<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron.

"I think the major (changes) are the software upgrade, which is going to give some additional functionality, particularly for the airdrop and the low level missions," said Dorcey.

Extended range fuel tanks are another change, according to Dorcey. With air refueling, C-17s have global range, but the fuel tanks will give additional range without air refueling.

Other features new to the Block 12 aircraft include Air Force Mission Planning System software, multi functional display redesign, thermal electrical refrigerator, electrical engine control backup power, electrical system control panel redesign, and electronic engine out software upgrade.

Important to the safety of aircraft and crew, the engine control backup power provides continued engine operations if an engine driven permanent magnet alternator fails.

Another significant safety enhancement is the electrical system control panel redesign, according to Dorcey. The redesigned panel eliminates the possibility of a single point electrical failure.

The electronic engine out software upgrade makes the enhanced engine out compensation system, which compensates for engine failure during take off and helps eliminate directional control problems, more reliable, said Dorcey.

Block 12 changes affect both operations personnel and maintainers.

“There is a lot of new technology, mostly in the com-nav (communication and navigation) and avionics aspects,” said Capt. Steve Dean, 437<sup>th</sup> Aircraft Generation Squadron Gator Sortie Generation Flight commander. “It’s not anything that we can’t handle, it’s just getting the experience with it.”

To gain experience before P-75 arrives, a team of seven CAFB maintainers from the 437 AGS traveled to Boeing’s Long Beach, Calif., facility as the maintenance acceptance team, Dean said.

“They’re going nose to tail through the aircraft, ensuring what Boeing signed up to give us is what we’re getting,” Dean said. “It’s a lot easier to get things like that fixed while they’re out there, at the production plant. It’s like buying a car, once you say ‘It’s mine,’ you’re responsible for doing the majority of the fixing.”

Dean said training sessions are planned for both the pilots and maintainers of the upgraded aircraft.

Col. Rusty Findley, 437<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing commander, is scheduled to speak at the arrival ceremony, as well as Lt. Gen. Charles Heflebower, 7<sup>th</sup> Air Force commander, who will accompany the aircraft from Long Beach, Calif., to CAFB.

According to Dorcey, the ceremony should be brief and is open to the base community. The aircraft will be on static display for tours following the ceremony.

**(Media interested in attending should contact Capt. Beth Szucs at 963-5537 or Staff Sgt. Pamela Smith at 963-5589 no later than Thursday at noon)**